

The smallest one-realization of a given set

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Abstract

For any set S of positive integers, a mixed hypergraph \mathcal{H} is a realization of S if its feasible set is S , furthermore, \mathcal{H} is a one-realization of S if it is a realization of S and each entry of its chromatic spectrum is either 0 or 1. Jiang et al. [2] showed that the minimum number of vertices of realization of $\{s, t\}$ with $2 \leq s \leq t - 2$ is $2t - s$. Král [3] proved that there exists a one-realization of S with at most $|S| + 2 \max S - \min S$ vertices. In this paper, we improve Král's result, and determine the size of the smallest one-realization of a given set. As a result, we partially solve an open problem proposed by Jiang et al. in 2002 and by Král in 2004.

Key words: mixed hypergraph; feasible set; chromatic spectrum; one-realization

1 Introduction

A *mixed hypergraph* on a finite set X is a triple $\mathcal{H} = (X, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$, where \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are families of subsets of X , called the \mathcal{C} -edges and \mathcal{D} -edges, respectively. A *bi-hypergraph* is a mixed hypergraph with $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{D}$. A sub-hypergraph $\mathcal{H}' = (X', \mathcal{C}', \mathcal{D}')$ of a mixed hypergraph $\mathcal{H} = (X, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ is a *partial sub-hypergraph* if $X' = X$, and \mathcal{H}' is called a *derived sub-hypergraph* of \mathcal{H} on X' , denoted by $\mathcal{H}[X']$, when $\mathcal{C}' = \{C \in \mathcal{C} | C \subseteq X'\}$ and $\mathcal{D}' = \{D \in \mathcal{D} | D \subseteq X'\}$. Two mixed hypergraphs $\mathcal{H}_1 = (X_1, \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{D}_1)$ and $\mathcal{H}_2 = (X_2, \mathcal{C}_2, \mathcal{D}_2)$ are *isomorphic* if there exists a bijection ϕ from X_1 to X_2 that maps each \mathcal{C} -edge of \mathcal{C}_1 onto a \mathcal{C} -edge of \mathcal{C}_2 and maps each \mathcal{D} -edge of \mathcal{D}_1 onto a \mathcal{D} -edge of \mathcal{D}_2 , and vice versa. The bijection ϕ is called an *isomorphism* from \mathcal{H}_1 to \mathcal{H}_2 .

A *proper k -coloring* of \mathcal{H} is a mapping from X into a set of k colors so that each \mathcal{C} -edge has two vertices with a *Common* color and each \mathcal{D} -edge has two vertices with *Distinct* colors. A *strict k -coloring* is a proper k -coloring using all of the k colors, and a mixed hypergraph is *k -colorable* if it has a strict k -coloring. The maximum (minimum) number of colors in a strict coloring of $\mathcal{H} = (X, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ is the *upper chromatic number* $\overline{\chi}(\mathcal{H})$ (resp. *lower chromatic number* $\chi(\mathcal{H})$) of \mathcal{H} . The study of the colorings of mixed hypergraphs has made a lot of progress since its inception [5]. For more information, we would like refer readers to [4, 6].

The set of all the values k such that \mathcal{H} has a strict k -coloring is called the *feasible set* of \mathcal{H} , denoted by $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H})$. For each k , let r_k denote the number of *partitions* of the vertex

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set. Such partitions are called *feasible partitions*. The vector $R(\mathcal{H}) = (r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{\bar{\chi}})$ is called the *chromatic spectrum* of \mathcal{H} . A mixed hypergraph has a *gap at k* if its feasible set contains elements larger and smaller than k but omits k . A *gap of size g* means g consecutive gaps. If some gaps occur, the feasible set and the chromatic spectrum of \mathcal{H} are said to be *broken*, and if there are no gaps then they are called *continuous* or *gap-free*. If S is a set of positive integers, we say that a mixed hypergraph \mathcal{H} is a *realization* of S if $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H}) = S$. A mixed hypergraph \mathcal{H} is a *one-realization* of S if it is a realization of S and all the entries of the chromatic spectrum of \mathcal{H} are either 0 or 1. This concept was firstly introduced by Král [3].

Bujtás [1] gave a necessary and sufficient condition for a set S to be the feasible set of an r -uniform mixed hypergraph. Jiang et al. [2] proved that a set S of positive integers is a feasible set of a mixed hypergraph if and only if $1 \notin S$ or S is an interval. They also discussed the bound on the number of vertices of a mixed hypergraph with a gap, in particular, the minimum number of vertices of realization of $\{s, t\}$ with $2 \leq s \leq t - 2$ is $2t - s$. Moreover, they mentioned that the question of finding the minimum number of vertices in a mixed hypergraph with feasible set S of size at least 3 remains open. In [7], we obtained an upper bound on the minimum number of vertices of 3-uniform bi-hypergraphs with a given feasible set. Král [3] proved that there exists a one-realization of S with at most $|S| + 2 \max S - \min S$ vertices, and proposed the following problem: What is the number of vertices of the smallest mixed hypergraph whose spectrum is equal to a given spectrum (r_1, r_2, \dots, r_m) ?

In this paper, we determine the size of the smallest one-realization of a given set and obtain the following result:

Theorem 1.1 *For any integers $2 \leq n_s < \dots < n_2 < n_1$, let $\delta(S)$ denote the minimum size of one-realizations of $S = \{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_s\}$. Then*

$$\delta(S) = \begin{cases} 2n_1 - n_s, & \text{if } n_1 > n_2 + 1, \\ 2n_1 - n_s - 1, & \text{if } n_1 = n_2 + 1. \end{cases}$$

As a result, we partially solve the above open problem proposed by Jiang et al. and by Král.

2 Proof of Theorem 1.1

In this section we always assume that $S = \{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_s\}$ is a set of integers with $2 \leq n_s < \dots < n_2 < n_1$. We first show that the number $\delta(S)$ given in Theorem 1.1 is a lower bound on the size of the smallest one-realization of S , then construct two families of mixed hypergraphs which meet the bounds.

Jiang et al. [2] discussed the bound on the number of vertices of a mixed hypergraph with a gap.

Proposition 2.1 ([2, Theorem 3]) *If $\mathcal{H} = (X, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ is an s -colorable mixed hypergraph with a gap at $t - 1$, then $|X| \geq 2t - s$. For $2 \leq s \leq t - 2$, this bound is sharp.*

Lemma 2.2

$$\delta(S) \geq \begin{cases} 2n_1 - n_s, & \text{if } n_1 > n_2 + 1, \\ 2n_1 - n_s - 1, & \text{if } n_1 = n_2 + 1. \end{cases}$$

Proof. Assume that $\mathcal{H} = (X, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$ is a one-realization of S .

Case 1. $n_1 > n_2 + 1$. Then, \mathcal{H} has a gap at $n_1 - 1$. By Proposition 2.1, we have $\delta(S) \geq 2n_1 - n_s$.

Case 2. $n_1 = n_2 + 1$. Suppose $|X| \leq 2n_1 - (n_s + 2)$. For any strict n_1 -coloring $c_1 = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_{n_1}\}$ of \mathcal{H} , there exist at least $n_s + 2$ color classes of size one. Suppose $C_1 = \{\alpha_1\}, C_2 = \{\alpha_2\}, \dots, C_{n_s+2} = \{\alpha_{n_s+2}\}$. For any strict n_s -coloring c_s of \mathcal{H} , there are the following two possible cases:

Case 2.1. There exist three vertices in $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{n_s+2}\}$ which fall into a common color class under c_s . Suppose $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$ are in a common color class under c_s . Then $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2\}, \{\alpha_1, \alpha_3\}, \{\alpha_2, \alpha_3\} \notin \mathcal{D}$, which follows that $\{C_1 \cup C_2, C_3, \dots, C_{n_1}\}, \{C_1 \cup C_3, C_2, \dots, C_{n_1}\}, \{C_1, C_2 \cup C_3, C_4, \dots, C_{n_1}\}$ are strict n_2 -colorings of \mathcal{H} . Therefore, \mathcal{H} is not a one-realization of S , a contradiction.

Case 2.2. There exist two pairs of vertices in $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{n_s+2}\}$ each of which falls into a common color class under c_s . Suppose α_1, α_2 are in a common color class and α_3, α_4 are in common color class under c_s . Then $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2\}, \{\alpha_3, \alpha_4\} \notin \mathcal{D}$, it follows that $\{C_1 \cup C_2, C_3, \dots, C_{n_1}\}$ and $\{C_1, C_2, C_3 \cup C_4, C_5, \dots, C_{n_1}\}$ are strict n_2 -colorings of \mathcal{H} . Then \mathcal{H} is not a one-realization of S , a contradiction. Hence, $\delta(S) \geq 2n_1 - n_s - 1$. \square

In the rest of this section, we shall construct two families of mixed hypergraphs which meet the bound in Lemma 2.2.

For any positive integer n , let $[n]$ denote the set $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

Construction I. For any positive integer $s \geq 2$, let

$$\begin{aligned} X_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^0 &= \{(\underbrace{i, i, \dots, i}_s) \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, n_s - 1\}, \\ X_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^1 &= \bigcup_{t=2}^s \bigcup_{j=n_t}^{n_{t-1}-1} \{(\underbrace{j, \dots, j}_{t-1}, n_t, n_{t+1}, \dots, n_s), (\underbrace{j, \dots, j}_{t-1}, \underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_{s-t+1})\}. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose

$$\begin{aligned} X_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^* &= X_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^0 \cup X_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^1 \cup \{(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_s)\}, \\ \mathcal{D}_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^* &= \{\{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_s), (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_s)\} \mid x_i \neq y_i, i \in [s]\}, \\ \mathcal{C}_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^* &= \{\{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_s), (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_s), (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_s)\} \mid |\{x_j, y_j, z_j\}| = 2, j \in [s]\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then $\mathcal{H}_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^* = (X_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^*, \mathcal{C}_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^*, \mathcal{D}_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^*)$ is a mixed hypergraph with $2n_1 - n_s$ vertices.

Let

$$\begin{aligned} X_{n_1, \dots, n_s} &= \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_s) \mid x_i \in [n_i], i \in [s]\}, \\ X_{ij}^s &= \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{i-1}, j, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_s) \mid x_k \in [n_k], k \in [s] \setminus \{i\}\}, j \in [n_i]. \end{aligned}$$

Then, for any $i \in [s]$,

$$c_i^{s*} = \{X_{i1}^*, X_{i2}^*, \dots, X_{in_i}^*\}$$

is a strict n_i -coloring of $\mathcal{H}_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^*$, where $X_{ij}^* = X_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^* \cap X_{ij}^s, j \in [n_i]$.

Lemma 2.3 \mathcal{H}_{n_1, n_2}^* is a one-realization of $\{n_1, n_2\}$.

Proof. Under any strict coloring $c = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m\}$ of \mathcal{H}_{n_1, n_2}^* , the vertices $(1, 1), (2, 2), \dots, (n_2, n_2)$ fall into distinct color classes. For each $i \in [n_2]$, suppose $(i, i) \in C_i$. Then, for any $i \in [n_2 - 1]$ and $j \in [n_1 - n_2 - 1]$, we have $(n_2 + j, n_2) \notin C_i$ and $(n_2 + j, 1) \notin C_{n_2}$. Since $\{(1, 1), (n_2, 1), (n_2, n_2)\}$ is a \mathcal{C} -edge, $(n_2, 1) \in C_1$ or C_{n_2} .

Case 1. $(n_2, 1) \in C_1$. The fact that $\{(n_2, 1), (n_2, n_2), (n_2 + 1, n_2)\}$ is a \mathcal{C} -edge follows that $(n_2 + 1, n_2) \in C_{n_2}$. From the \mathcal{C} -edge $\{(n_2, 1), (n_2 + 1, 1), (n_2 + 1, n_2)\}$, we observe $(n_2 + 1, 1) \in C_1$. Similarly, $(n_2 + j, 1) \in C_1, (n_2 + j, n_2) \in C_{n_2}$ for any $j \in [n_1 - n_2 - 1]$ and $(n_1, n_2) \in C_{n_2}$. Therefore, $c = c_2^{s*}$.

Case 2. $(n_2, 1) \in C_{n_2}$. The \mathcal{D} -edge $\{(n_2, 1), (n_2 + 1, n_2)\}$ implies that $(n_2 + 1, n_2) \notin C_{n_2}$. Suppose $(n_2 + 1, n_2) \in C_{n_2+1}$. Owing to the \mathcal{C} -edge $\{(n_2, 1), (n_2 + 1, 1), (n_2 + 1, n_2)\}$, we have $(n_2 + 1, n_2) \in C_{n_2+1}$. Similarly, $(n_2 + j, n_2), (n_2 + j, 1) \in C_{n_2+j}$ for any $j \in [n_1 - n_2 - 1]$ and $(n_1, n_2) \in C_{n_1}$. Therefore, $c = c_1^{s*}$.

Hence, the desired result follows. \square

Theorem 2.4 $\mathcal{H}_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^*$ is a one-realization of S .

Proof. By Lemma 2.3, the conclusion is true for $s = 2$.

Let $X' = \{(x_2, x_2, x_3, x_4, \dots, x_s) | x_j \in [n_j], j \in [s] \setminus \{1\}\}$. Then $\mathcal{H}' = \mathcal{H}_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_s}^*[X']$ is isomorphic to $\mathcal{H}_{n_2, n_3, n_4, \dots, n_s}^*$. By induction, all the strict colorings of \mathcal{H}' are as follows:

$$c'_i = \{X'_{i1}, X'_{i2}, \dots, X'_{in_i}\}, \quad i \in [s] \setminus \{1\},$$

where $X'_{ij} = X' \cap X_{ij}^*, j \in [n_i]$.

For any strict coloring $c = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m\}$ of $\mathcal{H}_{n_1, \dots, n_s}^*$, the vertices $(1, 1, \dots, 1), (2, 2, \dots, 2), \dots, (n_s, n_s, \dots, n_s)$ fall into distinct color classes. Without loss of generality, suppose $(i, i, \dots, i) \in C_i$ for any $i \in [n_s]$. Then there are the following two possible cases:

Case 1. $c|_{X'} = c'_2$. The \mathcal{C} -edge $\{(1, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s)\}$ implies that $(n_2, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_1$ or C_{n_2} .

Case 1.1. $(n_2, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_1$. From the \mathcal{C} -edge $\{(n_2, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s)\}$, $(n_2 + 1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s)\}$ and the \mathcal{D} -edge $\{(1, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2 + 1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s)\}$, we observe $(n_2 + 1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_2}$. By the \mathcal{C} -edge $\{(n_2, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s), (n_2, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2 + 1, 1, \dots, 1)\}$ and the \mathcal{D} -edge $\{(n_2, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s), (n_2 + 1, 1, \dots, 1)\}$, we observe $(n_2 + 1, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_1$. Similarly, $(n_2 + j, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_1, (n_2 + j, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_2}$ for any $j \in [n_1 - n_2 - 1]$ and $(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_2}$. Therefore, $c = c_2^{s*}$.

Case 1.2. $(n_2, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_{n_2}$. Note that $(n_2 + j, 1, \dots, 1) \notin C_k$ for any $j \in [n_1 - n_2 - 1]$ and $k \in [n_2] \setminus \{1\}$. If $(n_2 + 1, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_1$, from the \mathcal{C} -edge $\{(n_2 + 1, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s), (n_2 + 1, n_2, \dots, n_s)\}$, we observe $(n_2 + 1, n_2, \dots, n_s) \in C_1$ or C_{n_2} , contrary to the fact that both $\{(1, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2 + 1, n_2, \dots, n_s)\}, \{(n_2, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2 + 1, n_2, \dots, n_s)\}$ are \mathcal{D} -edges. Then, $(n_2 + 1, 1, \dots, 1) \notin C_1$. Suppose $(n_2 + 1, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_{n_2+1}$. The \mathcal{C} -edge $\{(n_2 + 1, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2 + 1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s), (n_2, 1, \dots, 1)\}$ implies $(n_2 + 1, n_2, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_2+1}$. Similarly, $(n_2 + j, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2 + j, n_2, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_2+j}$ for any $j \in [n_1 - n_2 - 1]$ and $(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_1}$. Therefore, $c = c_1^{s*}$.

Case 2. There exists a $k \in [s] \setminus \{1, 2\}$ such that $c|_{X'} = c'_k$. In this case, we observe $(n_2, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_k, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_k}$. For any $j \in [n_1 - n_2 - 1]$, the \mathcal{D} -edge $\{(n_2 + j, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_k, \dots, n_s)\}$ implies that $(n_2 + j, 1, \dots, 1) \notin C_{n_k}$. From the \mathcal{C} -edge $\{(1, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_k, \dots, n_s), (n_2, 1, \dots, 1)\}$ and the \mathcal{D} -edge $\{(n_k, \dots, n_k, n_{k+1}, \dots, n_s), (n_2, 1, \dots, 1)\}$, we observe $(n_2, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_1$. For any $j \in [n_1 - n_2 - 1]$, the \mathcal{C} -edge $\{(n_2 + j, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_k, \dots, n_s)\}$ implies that $(n_2 + j, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_1$.

For any $j \in [n_1 - n_2 - 1]$, since $\{(1, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2 + j, n_2, \dots, n_s)\}$ is a \mathcal{D} -edge, $(n_2 + j, n_2, \dots, n_s) \notin C_1$. Moreover, the \mathcal{C} -edge $\{(n_2, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s), (n_2 + j, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2 + j, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s)\}$ implies that $(n_2 + j, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_k}$ for any $j \in [n_1 - n_2 - 1]$. The fact that $\{(n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s), (n_2, 1, \dots, 1), (n_2, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s)\}$ is a \mathcal{C} -edge follows that $(n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_k}$. Hence, $c = c_k^{s*}$.

By the above discussion, the desired result follows. \square

Next, we shall construct another family of mixed hypergraph. In this case, we need to delete the vertex $(n_2, 1, \dots, 1)$ from $\mathcal{H}_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_s}^*$.

Construction II. Let $X'' = X_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_s}^* \setminus \{(n_2, 1, \dots, 1)\}$ and $\mathcal{H}'' = \mathcal{H}_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_s}^*[X'']$. Then, for any $i \in [s]$,

$$c''_i = \{X''_{i1}, X''_{i2}, \dots, X''_{in_i}\}$$

is a strict n_i -coloring of \mathcal{H}'' , where $X''_{ij} = X'' \cap X_{ij}^s, j \in [n_i]$.

Theorem 2.5 *If $n_1 = n_2 + 1$, the \mathcal{H}'' is a one-realization of S .*

Proof. Referring to the proof of Theorem 2.4, all the strict colorings of $\mathcal{H}_{n_2, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s}^*$ are

$$c'_i = \{X'_{i1}, X'_{i2}, \dots, X'_{in_i}\}, \quad i \in [s] \setminus \{1\},$$

where $X' = \{(x_2, x_2, x_3, x_4, \dots, x_s) | x_j \in [n_j], j \in [s] \setminus \{1\}\}$ and $X'_{ij} = X' \cap X_{ij}^*$, $j \in [n_i]$.

For any strict coloring $c = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m\}$ of \mathcal{H}'' , there are the following two possible cases:

Case 1. $c|_{X'} = c'_2$. For any $(x_2, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_s) \in X''$, suppose $(x_2, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_s) \in C_{x_2}$ under the coloring c . By the proof of Theorem 2.4, $(n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s) \notin C_j$ for any $j \in [n_2 - 1]$. Then, there are the following two possible subcases.

Case 1.1. $(n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_2}$. It is immediate that $c = c''_2$.

Case 1.2 $(n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s) \notin C_{n_2}$. Suppose $(n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_1}$. Then, it is immediate that $c = c''_1$.

Case 2. There exists a $k \in [s] \setminus \{1, 2\}$ such that $c|_{X'} = c'_k$. It is immediate that $(n_k, \dots, n_k, n_{k+1}, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_k}$ and $(\underbrace{n_k, \dots, n_k}_{k-1}, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_1$. From the \mathcal{C} -edge $\{(n_1, \dots, n_k, n_{k+1}, \dots, n_s), (n_k, \dots, n_k, n_{k+1}, \dots, n_s), (n_k, \dots, n_k, 1, \dots, 1)\}$ and the \mathcal{D} -edge $\{(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_s), (1, 1, \dots, 1)\}$, we observe $(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_s) \in C_{n_k}$. Hence, $c = c''_k$.

Hence, the desired result follows. \square

Combining Lemma 2.2, Theorems 2.4 and 2.5, the proof of Theorem 1.1 is completed.

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